

Message Text

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TAGS: PGOV, OVIP, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON SECRETARY
KISSINGER

1. FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER MICHEL JOBERT PARTICIPATED
JANUARY 5 IN AN HOUR-LONG RADIO BROADCAST ON RADIO TELEVISION
LUXEMBOURG ENTITLED: "UNEXPECTED REPORT." THIS PROGRAM IS A
SORT OF FRENCH MEET THE PRESS. THERE FOLLOW UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY
TRANSLATIONS OF JOBERT'S PERSONAL COMMENTS ON THE SECRETARY.

2. ASKED IF HE WERE CONCERNED AT BEING CALLED AN EMINENCE
GRISE, A FRENCH KISSINGER, EVEN THOUGH THIS WAS NOT AN
UNFAVORABLE COMPARISON, JOBERT RESPONDED: "I CAN EASILY ANSWER
AN THAT POINT. THE US IS THE US. FRANCE IS THE COUNTRY
THAT ONE KNOWS AND ONE LOVES. MR. KISSINGER PLAYED A GREAT
ROLE FOR PRESIDENT NIXON, HE CONTINUES IN ANOTHER FORM TO PLAY
A VERY GREAT ROLE IN THE POLICY OF HIS COUNTRY." RTL REPORTER
BESANCON THEN SAID: "YOU PLAYED A GREAT ROLE FOR M. POMPIDOU
AND YOU CONTINUE TO DO SO." JOBERT: "YES, BUT MR. KISSINGER HAS
HIS METHODS, AMERICA ITS METHODS, THE AMERICAN PRESS HAS ITS
METHODS ALSO. IT IS ALL SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT. MOREOVER, I WOULD
SAY, THAT HAVING WORKED WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC,
FIRST AS PRIME MINISTER, THEN AS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC
DURING TEN YEARS, I HAVE DONE LOTS OF THINGS WITH HIM OTHER THAN
CONCERNING MYSELF WITH FOREIGN POLICY AND I FIND THAT IN MY
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MODEST DOMESTIC SPHERE MY HORIZON WAS CERTAINLY MORE DIVERSE

THAN THAT OF MR. KISSINGER."

3. LATER IN THE DISCUSSION, THE SUBJECT OF THE ENERGY CRISIS AND THE ENERGY ACTION GROUP PROPOSAL CAME UP. JOBERT WAS ASKED WHAT HE THOUGHT OF THE SECRETARY'S CONDEMNATION OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS." IN PARTICULAR, JOBERT WAS ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT: "A POLICY OF INDEPENDENCE WOULD BE A SUICIDAL POLICY." JOBERT REPLIED: "IT IS ALWAYS NECESSARY, IN FACT, ON SUCH A QUESTION TO RETAIN A GOOD DEAL OF INDEPENDENCE OF THOUGHT, THIS PERMITS ONE TO BE PEREMPTORY DELIBERATELY. MR. KISSINGER MAKES STATEMENTS ON THE ENERGY PROBLEM. IT IS A SUBJECT WHICH FASCINATES HIM AND IN WHICH I TRIED TO INTEREST HIM IN THE PAST, BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE."STONE

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